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SALAH KHALAF COMMENTS ON HABIB MISSION

NC270810 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Brother Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf) has said that he is not optimistic about the current visit of U.S. envoy Philip Habib. He added that after every visit the U.S. envoy has made, a crisis has taken place in the area. He expressed the belief that at this stage, the United States does not favor a military operation in southern Lebanon and that Philip Habib might be coming to the area for this purpose. He said that Habib might, however, also have other tasks pertaining to Lebanon, the south, the presidential elections, Syria and Jordan.

Brother Abu Iyad said: Israel wants to benefit from the cease-fire agreement in the south in order to generalize it on all fronts and on our people inside the occupied territory.

Brother Abu Iyad denied that the Palestinian resistance has increased its forces in the south, affirming that the joint forces are in a state of alert to repulse any aggression because the Palestinian revolution's fate is confrontation and that if it receives a blow, then this will rebound on all the U.S. interests in the area.

VOP Comments on Habib Tour

NC261322 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 82

[From "With the Events" Program]

[Text] We can no longer count the number of visits Philip Habib, the envoy of the U.S. President, has paid to our Arab region. He has made many, and much has been done during them. The codeword in these visits in "the Palestinian question." The United States and Israel consider the modest Palestinian gun to be what breaks the favorable monotony in the area and that this gun deserves Habib's repeated visits to the area in order to withdraw or contain it.

Concerning the current visit, the U.S. deputy secretary of state said that Habib is coming to the Middle East because the situation in Lebanon remains fragile and fraught with tension. Has Habib actually come to remove the wick of tension which Israel holds and ceaselessly threatens to detonate, or has he come in an attempt to realize what Israel wants without it being compelled to carry out a military action? Or has Habib come to coordinate the stands and actions so that the vision may be complete and the planned scenario may continue along its course without any hindrances?

We do not give more weight to one possibility over the other, because we know precisely what the Americans want in southern Lebanon and throughout the region. They want something fundamental. They want to divest the PLO of its military weapons to keep it away from the political equation. All the statements and moves made by the U.S. administration and the threats and provocations by the Israeli leadership fall within this framework.

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ARAB LEAGUE ANXIOUS ABOUT ATTACKS ON ERITREANS

LD261556 Tunis TAP in English 1426 GMT 26 Feb 82

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (TAP) -- The Arab League General Secretariat expressed its strong anxiety at the violent attacks which are still launched by the Ethiopian Armed Forces against the Eritrean people at the time when efforts are being carried out in order to instaure [as received] between the two parties a peace which guarantees the Eritrean people's legitimate rights to self-determination.

In its communique published on Friday evening in Tunis, the General Secretariat pointed out that by having recourse to the chemical war, to fight gases, to prohibited napalm bombs in its military operations (this has been reported by information sources), the Ethiopian Government is violating the international law and Geneva's conventions.

It appealed to the Ethiopian Government to put an end to its repeated attacks against the Eritrean people. These attacks, went on the communique, made according to all sources several victims and provoked destruction.

The league's General Secretariat furthermore invited the Eritreans and their leaders to joint their ranks and to constitute a joint front in order to realise the yearnings of their people. It also appealed to them to end their marginal disputes in accordance with the Tunis agreement recommendations and to be aware of the fact that the Eritrean people's unity is highly necessary for winning battles and for installing peace.

'ARAFAT DISCUSSES SECURITY WITH MUHSIN IBRAHIM

JN281550 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] PLO Chairman 'Arafat yesterday evening met with the executive secretary general of the Lebanese National Movement, Muhsin Ibrahim.

During the meeting, the situation in northern Lebanon was discussed in light of the implementation of the measures taken to resolve the problems there and bring security and peace back to the area. Following the meeting, Ibrahim stated that measures taken by the joint leaderships in cooperation with the Arab Deterrent Forces and nationalist villages in the north are being implemented. This, he said, calls for optimism as a step towards ending the problems and bringing peace and security to the region.

In a press conference yesterday, Muhsin Ibrahim also praised the role 'Arafat has played in resolving the problems and other issues in Tripoli. Life in Tripoli has returned to normal with calm now prevailing for the past 3 days.

'ARAFAT RECUPERATES, RECEIVES MINISTERS, ENVOY

JN011902 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning received the Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon. Our correspondent learned that the visit was to inquire about the health of Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar after his recovery from his illness. Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his gratitude for his kind gesture. Last night Brother Abu 'Ammar received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah who had come to inquire about his health.

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VOP SAYS GDR TO GRANT PLO OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

JN092042 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Mar 82

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] The GDR today received Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] who arrived in Berlin heading a large Palestinian delegation. This visit represents a new phase in the relations between the two peoples. It is expected that several discussions will take place between Brother Abu 'Ammar and his delegation and GDR President Comrade Erich Honecker and a number of state and party officials.

The discussions are expected to lead to official GDR recognition of the PLO which means raising the status of the PLO in Berlin to embassy status. This expected step represents one of the most important political achievements scored by the PLO in its struggle to regain the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

On the other hand, Abu 'Ammar's visit to the GDR is a reflection of the excellent relations between the Palestinian people and the friendly GDR people. These relations which began a long time ago appeared in many political stands and cooperation [words indistinct] during recent years. The Palestinian people and their leadership are proud of the close relations that exist between them and the GDR and look forward to broader friendship and cooperation with the GDR people. The supporting stands of the GDR people to the Palestinian cause constitute a source of strength and support which will help the Palestinian people return to their homeland and establish the Palestinian state.

Finally, Abu 'Ammar's visit to the GDR will result in strengthening the joint struggle between the PLO and the Arab nation on the one hand and the GDR and the socialist group headed by the friendly USSR on the other, against the U.S. imperialist plans in our Arab region. These plans are represented by the escalated Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the Arab nation with the complete and unlimited support of the present Washington administration.

REACTION TO MITTERRAND'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

Resistance Spokesmen

PM061701 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Mar 82 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Resistance Denounces Mitterrand's Visit, Shift From 'Intermediary to Biased' Position"]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian resistance factions yesterday denounced French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel and called for measures against France, saying that Paris under Mitterrand has shifted from playing an intermediary role in the Arab-Israeli conflict to a biased one.

A spokesman for the PFLP said the visit was a true expression of France's link -- whether during the previous regime or the present one -- with U.S. imperialism. The visit has confirmed Mitterrand's political line evident both in the vote against the UN resolution condemning the Golan annexation and his insistence on making this visit despite Israeli terrorist activities.

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